

BALDOCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

To The Chairman and Members of the Baldock Urban District Council:

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Twenty-ninth Report on the health and sanitary conditions of your district, as required by the Ministry of Health under the Sanitary Officers' Orders.

The Report covers the period from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1944.

The Report is considerably curtailed, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

SECTION A:Statistics and Social Conditions of the District

Area (in acres) ... ..	542
Residential Population (Registrar-General's Figure) ... ..	5,606
Number of inhabited houses ... ..	1,178
Rateable value ... ..	£29,078
Sum represented by a penny rate... ..	£112.11.4

Vital StatisticsBirths

					<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Live births:	Legitimate ...				91	50	41
	Illegitimate ...				<u>15</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>
	Totals ...				<u>106</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>46</u>
Birth Rate: ... ..					18.9		
England and Wales: ... ..					17.6		
Still births:	Legitimate ...				<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	Illegitimate ...				<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	Totals ...				<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Still Birth Rate per thousand live births: ... ..					9.4		

Deaths

Male ... ..								17
Female ... ..								<u>26</u>
Total								<u>43</u>
Death Rate: ... ..								7.6
England and Wales: ... ..								11.6
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:					<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
	Legitimate ...				2	1	1	
	Illegitimate ...				<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	
	Totals ...				<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	



Infant Mortality Rate  
(Per 1000 births) ... 18.9

The chief causes of death were as follows:-

Tuberculosis of Resp. Sys.	...	2
Cancer	...	7
Intra Cran. Lesions	...	7
Heart Disease	...	11
Other diseases of Circ. Sys.	...	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	1
Appendicitis	...	1
Other Digestive diseases...	...	3
Con. Mal. Birth	...	2
Suicide	...	1
Other violent causes	...	2
All other causes	...	5

Death from Cancer (all ages) ... 7  
Rate per thousand population ... 1.2

## SECTION B:

### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

#### (i) STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (Part-time):  
Bertram Suggit, M.B., Ch.B. (Leeds and Manchester)  
D.P.H. (Cambs.)  
Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector:  
Leslie R. Brown, M.R. San.I., A.F.A.S.

#### (ii) OTHER SERVICES

Laboratory, Ambulance, Nursing and Hospital services.  
The arrangements for these services are as in former years and are satisfactory.

## SECTION C:

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF BALDOCK.

#### 1. (i) Water.

The water is obtained from The First Garden City Limited's Pumping Stations at Baldock Road and Willian Road. Bacteriological samples are taken every fortnight and have proved satisfactory.

#### (ii) Drainage and Sewerage.

No change in the system. Consulting Engineers have prepared two schemes, one for pumping the sewage to Letchworth Works and one for the installation of a new works at Baldock. The Council are now giving careful consideration to the Schemes.

#### 2. Rivers and Streams.


No change.

#### 3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

No change.

#### (ii) Public Cleansing.

Despite the difficulty of labour, the collection of refuse and salvage has been very satisfactory. Fortnightly collection is made throughout the district except for shops and business premises, from which weekly collection is made. A new refuse tip has been opened in conjunction with the Letchworth U.D.C., controlled tipping is in operation.



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(iii) Sanitary Inspections of the Area.

Houses visited under Public Health Acts	...	43
Housing Acts	... ..	21
Factories and Workshops	... ..	20
Nuisances investigated	... ..	87
Prevention of Infectious Disease	... ..	36
Cowsheds, Dairies and Bakehouses	... ..	40
Butchers and other Shops	... ..	46
Rat Infestation	... ..	14
Miscellaneous	... ..	31
Preliminary Notices served	... ..	57
Statutory	" " ... ..	-

(iv) Shops and Offices.

There are 81 Shops in the district. All those dealing with food stuffs have been visited during the period, no contraventions found. No inspections of offices carried out.

(v) Camping Site.

- (a) One site periodically used by gypsies.
- (b) No licence granted.

(vi) Smoke Abatement.

Observations have been taken and three visits to the boilermen have been made to rectify the nuisance. Improvements have been made but fuel supplies cause chief difficulty.

(vii) Swimming Pool (Private).

Samples taken each month by chemist employed by owners of the pool.

(viii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Five cases were reported and satisfactorily disinfested.

SECTION D:

HOUSING

1. No new houses were completed during the year, but plans are almost ready for the Post-war Housing Scheme. Negotiations for the purchase of land are proceeding, and the site will accommodate about 250 houses. There are a number of houses which may be termed "border line" cases, a comprehensive list is kept and as soon as housing circumstances permit these will be dealt with. Essential repairs have in all cases been carried out. The following is a list of works carried out in houses after a Preliminary Notice:-

Choked drains 20; Drains relaid 2;  
 Inspection covers provided 3; W.Cs. repaired 4;  
 Sinks provided 2; Lavatory basin renewed 1;  
 Waste Pipes repaired or renewed 6;  
 Water Service Pipes 9; Overflows causing dampness 27;  
 Eaves, guttering, etc. repaired 7;  
 Roofs 5; Windows and frames 3; Fireplaces 5;  
 Floors 9; Dampness remedied 2.

Notices outstanding at 31st December, 1944:-

Two.





2. Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding

Local conditions have caused numerous difficulties, but a satisfactory arrangement has been worked out in conjunction with the Billeting Officer, and re-adjustments have been made wherever possible.

The number of houses recorded as overcrowded at the end of 1944 is nineteen, affecting 34 families, and a total number of 136 persons.

SECTION E:

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply.

One farm in the area is licensed for producing, bottling and retailing Tuberculin Tested (Certified) and Accredited Milk. Seven other persons were registered as retail purveyors, two of whom have premises in the district. Close co-operation has been given by the Rural Inspector in whose district the majority of the milk is produced, and from the samples taken in both districts the standard of all milk was found remarkably good.

(b) Meat and other foods.

All fresh meat supplies are inspected at Letchworth, and the quality of meat coming into the district is remarkably good. 17-lbs. Beef only was found to be unfit.

In addition, the following were condemned:-

35-lbs. Jam; 6-lbs. Bottled Fruit; 34-lbs. Tinned Meat Roll, etc.

57 tins Fish; 25 tins Soups; 36 tins Milk;  
45-lbs. Sausage Meat; 44-stone Fish; 24 Fowls;  
21 Ducks; 2 Turkeys; 1 Hare.

(c) Adulteration, etc.

The County Council are the Food and Drugs Authority for the district, the officer being Mr. C.F. Hart.

SECTION F:

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES

Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	57
Measles	...	...	...	...	2
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	14
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	3
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	8
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	28





Tuberculosis

New cases during the period:-

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 - 1	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	1
5 - 15	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	1	1	-	-
25 - 35	-	2	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	2	1	-	-
55 - 65 and over	-	-	-	-
	3	4	-	1

Deaths

5 - 15	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	1	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-
55 - 65 and over	-	1	-	-
	1	1	-	-

CONCLUSION

The Birth Rate for 1944 is about the same as for the years 1942 and 1943, though less than that for 1939. It is to be noted that one out of seven births was illegitimate.

The Death Rate and Infant Mortality Rate are both low.

Our population figures are steadily rising, except for the year 1941 (5693) which was higher than that for 1944 (5606).

I should here like to express my appreciation of the help given by my colleagues in the Health Department.

BERTRAM SUGGIT  
Medical Officer of Health.

